

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 OPIC-03 OES-03

CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /063 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/AFN:DLMACK:CFE

APPROVED BY E:CROBINSON

NEA:SSOBER

S/S:REWOODS

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R 110031Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 030401

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REFS: (A) TUNIS 0075; (B) TUNIS 0211; (C) TUNIS 0457

FOR UNDER SECRETARY TABOR

1. USG IS PREPARED ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE JC WITH TUNISIA CONSISTENT WITH GOT'S DESIRE FOR INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK THAT COULD ADDRESS OUR OVERALL RELATIONS.

AMBASSADOR MAY PROPOSE TO GOT ESTABLISHMENT OF JC TO PROMOTE AND INTENSIFY U.S.-TUNISIAN RELATIONS ON BROAD SCALE IN FIELDS SUCH AS TRADE AND ECONOMIC COLLABORATION, SCIENCE, AHNOLGY, CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND SECURITY MATTERS.

AMBASSADOR SHOULD NOTE THAT WE SEE MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES IN FIELDS OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT AND WILL WISH TO GIVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THOSE FIELDS UNDER THE JC. BEGIN FYI: WE WILL WISH TO AVOID CONTENTIOUS CONSIDERATION IN JC OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE LEVELS. TO EXTENT POSSIBLE

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WE EXPECT DISCUSSION OF THOSE SUBJECTS AS WELL AS OTHER ON-

GOING PROGRAMS TO CONTINUE FUNDAMENTALLY THROUGH OUR NORMAL EXISTING CHANNELS. END FYI.

2. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS AGREED TO SERVE AS U.S. CHAIRMAN OF JC, WITH UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, CHARLES W. ROBINSON, AS HIS DEPUTY. (WE ASSUME FOREIGN MINISTER WILL WISH CHAIR JC ON TUNISIAN SIDE.)

3. AMBASSADOR SHOULD ALSO INFORM GOT THAT WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE NEED FOR PERMANENT WORKING GROUPS UNDER JC. AD HOC WORKING GROUPS COULD BE CREATED FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES AS NEED ARISES. FOR EXAMPLE, AN AD HOC U.S. WORKING GROUP ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT MIGHT TRAVEL TO TUNIS LATER THIS YEAR.

4. WE WISH TO ANNOUNCE ESTABLISHMENT OF JC AT TIME OF STATE VISIT BY PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA. STATE VISIT WOULD ALSO BE OCCASION OF INAUGURAL MEETING OF JC.

5. WE LOOK TO ESTABLISHMENT OF JC AS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN OUR RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA. WE SEE IT AS A CONSULTATIVE FORUM WHICH WILL ENHANCE THE ALREADY EXCELLENT COOPERATION BETWEEN TUNISIA AND UNITED STATES.

6. UPON RECEIPT GOT REACTIONS TO ABOVE PROPOSAL, WE WILL BE SENDING YOU PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON AGENDA FOR FIRST JC MEETING. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE PROMOTION, COMMITTEES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE030401
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLMACK:CFE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750049-0001
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750253/aaaabvqk.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TUNIS 0075, 75 TUNIS 0211, 75 TUNIS 0457
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S.-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION
TAGS: PFOR, TS, US, USTSJC
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006